



From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/005856

International filing date (day/month/year)
23.04.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
09.05.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H04N5/765, H04N5/445

Applicant
MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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ATTACHMENT F

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/005856

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

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Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not been furnished:

☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).

☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1. The following document is referred to in this communication:

D1 : EP 1 154 433 A (AT&T CORP.) 14 November 2001 (2001-11-14)

2. Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):

a reproduction apparatus for performing a digest reproduction of a recorded program by referring to digest information, the recorded program being a recording of some or all segments of an original program (paragraph 11), comprising:

a communication section operable to communicate via a network with a server which stores digest information with respect to the original program, the digest information containing information of a digest segment to be used for the digest reproduction (paragraph 15); and

a reproduction processing section operable to reproduce the recorded program based on the digest information acquired by the server digest information processing section (paragraph 16).

From this, the subject-matter of independent claim 1 differs in that it further comprises:

a program recording information processing section operable to generate program recording information with respect to the recorded program, the program recording information containing information of recorded segments relative to the original program; and

a server digest information processing section operable to the program recording information concerning the recorded program and the digest information corresponding to the recorded program, and acquire, from the server, digest information containing information of digest segments at least some of which coincide with the recorded segments.

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AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

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The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore considered to be novel (Article 33(2) PCT) with respect to D1.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as one of how to obtain digest information concerning the recorded segments

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) as it is neither known from nor rendered obvious by the available prior art.

3. The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject matter of corresponding independent claims 15, 16 and 17, which therefore are also considered to be novel (Article 33(2) PCT) and to involve inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).
4. Claims 2-14 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.